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MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION PROVIDES RECORD FUNDING FOR RESIDENTIAL SOLAR AND GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

ANNAPOLIS, MD (July 23, 2008) – Governor Martin O'Malley today announced that the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) has awarded a record level of grant funding in support of residential solar and geothermal energy to Maryland residents. The Maryland Energy Administration has awarded \$591,000 to Maryland residents for the solar and geothermal program, a residential grant program that helps offset the cost of installing residential and small commercial renewable energy systems.

“Maryland continues to be a leader in investing in cleaner, more renewable energies and it is no surprise that this grant money has been awarded just weeks after becoming available,” said Governor O'Malley. “The residential solar and geothermal grant program has helped hundreds of Maryland families contribute to a cleaner and more sustainable economy, while also helping to reduce household energy costs.”

“The level of interest in MEA's solar and geothermal grant program continues to grow,” said Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. “Marylanders are clearly ready to move to greener and more sustainable energy sources to offset their electricity bills.”

The record level of funding was made possible by new legislation championed by Governor O'Malley to update the solar and geothermal grant program. Under the revised legislation, signed in April, Maryland residents are eligible for grants of up to \$10,000 (\$2,500 per kilowatt) for photovoltaic solar arrays, up to \$3,000 for solar water heaters, and up to \$3,000 (\$1,000 per ton of cooling) for geothermal systems. As a result of the new legislation, the Maryland Energy Administration has fully spent its budget for the solar and geothermal program.

MEA is actively pursuing additional avenues of funding to enable more Marylanders to contribute to a cleaner, more renewable Maryland, while reducing their energy bills. As funding becomes available, MEA will offer additional grants to Marylanders currently on the wait list.

Funding is still available for the MEA's Windswept program, which provides grants of up to \$10,000 (\$2,500 per kilowatt) to offset the cost of small-scale wind turbines for Maryland residents in appropriate locales.

For more information about renewable energy programs and money saving tips, go to www.energy.maryland.gov.

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